

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for interpreting a natural language query, comprising:

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providing a contextual lexicon and contextual rules;

receiving the natural language query, the natural language query having a plurality of text;

tagging the plurality of text using the contextual lexicon and contextual rules;

creating a structural representation of the plurality of text using a plurality of matrix rules;

generating a plurality of conceptual phrases to be submitted to an application for interpreting the plurality of conceptual phrases using a plurality of phrase generation rules applied to the structural representation of the plurality of text.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

formatting the plurality of concept phrases contained in a the concept phrase table to be understood by a search engine or database management systems application, the formatting step creating a formatted concept phrase; and

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submitting the formatted concept phrase to the search engine or database management system to extract information relevant to the concept phrase.

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3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

formatting the plurality of concept phrases contained in a the concept phrase table to be understood by a search engine or database management systems application, the formatting

5 step creating a formatted concept phrase;

submitting the formatted concept phrase to the search engine or database management system to obtain extracted information relevant to the concept phrase;

obtaining the extracted information from the search engine or database management system;

generating a plurality of second concept phrases from the extracted information for comparison to the plurality of concept phrases;

comparing the plurality of second concept phrases to the plurality of concept phrases; and

ranking the extracted information in order of relevance based on the comparing step.

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4. A computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon for processing natural language queries, that, when loaded on a computer, the computer program causing the computer to perform a method for interpreting a natural language query, the method

5 comprising :

providing a contextual lexicon and contextual rules;

receiving the natural language query, the natural language query having a plurality of text;

tagging the plurality of text using the contextual lexicon and contextual rules;

creating a structural representation of the plurality of text using a plurality of matrix rules;

generating a plurality of conceptual phrases to be submitted to an application for interpreting the plurality of conceptual phrases using a plurality of phrase generation rules applied to the structural representation of the plurality of text.

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